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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
(UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE)

HEADQUARTERS: 6, Rue Constantin, Geneva, Switzerland

HISTORY: Founded 1889, Paris, at the initiative of William Randal Cremer and Frederic Passy as Inter-Parliamentary Union for International Arbitration. Before 1914 it dealt specially with questions related to international arbitration. It was instrumental in the calling of the second Hague Peace Conference, 1907, and played a part in the creation of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the Permanent Court of International Justice. Lays special stress on principle of universality and non-party character. Since 1919 it considerably widened its interests, and at the present time deals with the international aspects of political, legal, economic, social, colonial, cultural and health problems. Last Conferences--Dublin (1950); Istanbul, Turkey (1951); Berne (1952); Washington, D.C. (1953); Helsinki (1955). (Latest IPU Conference scheduled to be held in Bangkok, November 15-22, 1956.)

PURPOSES: To promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments, constituted into national groups, and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective states in the firm establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of the work of international peace and co-operation, particularly by means of a universal organization of nations. Its object is also to study and seek solutions for all questions of an international character suitable for settlement by parliamentary action and to make suggestions for the development of parliamentary institutions, with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.

MEMBERS: National Parliamentary Groups in---Albania, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Ceylon, Denmark, Egypt, Finland

* National Parliamentary Groups are voluntary associations of individual members of the respective national parliaments.

France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republican Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, USSR, Yugoslavia.

/ Note:

- (A) Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland joined in September 1954; Albania and USSR National Parliamentary Groups formed in July and June and affiliated in August 1955.
- (B) Ukraine, Byelorussian SSR, CPR and GDR NPG's formed in July 1955 and sought affiliation with IPU in August 1955 but were rejected.
- (C) Poland had been a former member but membership had lapsed. Aside from Yugoslavia, no other Soviet bloc membership prior to September 1954. /

STRUCTURE: Inter-Parliamentary Conferences, Inter-Parliamentary Council, Executive Committee, Inter-Parliamentary Bureau (Secretariat).

OFFICERS: President of the Council and of the Executive Committee, The Rt. Hon. Viscount Stansgate, DSO, DFC. (UK); Members of the Executive Committee, Erik Hagberg (Sweden), Habib Abi-Chahla (Lebanon), Djihat Baban (Turkey), Harold D. Cooley (USA), Aymon de Senarclens (Switzerland), Phra Rajadharma Nides (Thailand); Secretary-General, Andre de Blonay (Switzerland).

FINANCE: Membership dues. Budget for 1954, 332,600 Swiss francs.

NGO's: Member of the Federation of Semi-Official and Private International Institutions established in Geneva.

IGO's: Consultative status with ECOSOC (Category A) and UNESCO.

ACTIVITIES: Organization of annual conferences; meetings of the Council and Standing Study Committees. At its session in April 1953 in Monaco, the Inter-Parliamentary Council decided to present resolutions on the following questions to the plenary Conference held in Washington, D. C. (9 October 1953): Necessity and Effects of International Technical and Financial Assistance, Role of Parliaments in Foreign Affairs, Right of Peoples to Self-Determination, Modification of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Union. Standing Study Committees on Political and Organization Questions, Juridical Questions, Economic and Financial Questions, Non-Self Governing Territories and Ethnical Questions, Reduction of Armaments, Social and Humanitarian Questions, Intellectual Relations.

IMPORTANCE OF 1956 IPU CONFERENCE: Until the post-Stalin change in Soviet tactics, the IPU was considered primarily a debating society "dedicated to seeking peaceful settlement of disputes among nations." As late of 1953 the only Communist parliament represented in the IPU was that of Yugoslavia. As indicated above, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland joined in 1954, as did Albania and the USSR in 1955. The USSR National Group was formed less than two months before the 1955 Helsinki IPU Conference under the Chairmanship of D. T. Shepilov, now Foreign Minister. According to an article in *Izvestia* of July 29, 1955, "The IPU... can and must become an authoritative proponent of peaceful coexistence..." Shortly thereafter, applications for IPU membership were filed by the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Albania, East Germany and Communist China. Clearly the Soviet interest in the IPU is its potential as a propaganda instrument for the new line and for facilitation of united-front tactics at the national parliamentary level. During the past year, and particularly during the last few months, there has been a heavy increase in the number of free world parliamentary delegations that have visited the Soviet Union, the Satellites and China, at the invitation of either National Parliamentary Groups or the parliaments of these countries.

PUBLICATIONS: Inter-Parliamentary Bulletin (English and French, Quarterly); Proceedings of Inter-Parliamentary conferences (English and French); Constitutional and Parliamentary Information (English and French quarterly). Annuaire Interparlementaire: La vie politique

et constitutionnelle des peuples, by B Mirkin-Guetzevitch and Leopold Boissier (1931-1940); Histoire documentaire de L'Union Interparlementaire, by C.C. Lange. Resolutions and documents concerning Conferences: Bureau interparlementaire, Resolutions des Conferences et decisions principales du Conseil; Inter-Parliamentary Union from 1889-1939; Inter-Parliamentary Union - its work and its organization; European Parliamentary Procedure: A Comparative Handbook, by Campion and Lidderdale, London 1953.